and the actual amount spent in Assam during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RAN A): (a) and (b) In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R&D, training infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/ incentive/ financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project (Covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc., in association/ Collaboration with the States.

The Specific programmes taken up in Assam are as follows:—

(1) North East Action Plan which is ongoing.

(2) Two districts of Jorhat and Sibsagar were taken up under the National Sericulture Project which ended in December, 1996.

(3) To boost production of silk 34 catelytic development schemes have been sanctioned for implementation by the Government through Central Silk Board. Out of 34 schemes, 8 schemes have been approved during 1998-99 for being implemented in the State of Assam, viz.:—

(i) Installation of Common Facility Centre.

(ii) enterprise Development Programmes.

(iii) Demonstration of Systematic Plantation in Eri Food Plant and Suppply of Start-up Tools.

(iv) Augmentation of Muga Food Plants.

(v) Providing Training and Start-up tools to Farmers to Practice Muga Culture.

(vi) Crop Insurance Support for Muga.

(vii) Pilot Scheme for Support to Private Grainures for Production of Quality Muga Seed.

(viii) Data Base Development.

(4) An Integrated Muga and Eri Sericulture Development Project has been prepared by the Central Silk Board in North Eastern States, including Assam, for implementation during IXth Plan Period at a cost of Rs. 95 crores, out of which the Assam component is Rs. 64 crores.

(c) The total amount proposed to be spent on implementation of the schemes under Catelytic Developmental Programmes in all the States during IXth Plan is Rs. 85.17 crores and the expenditure already incurred in Assam on various schemes is Rs. 1057 crores, Rs. 4.56 crores and Rs. 3.69 crores during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

Rehabilitetion of NTC Units

3966. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BIFR has asked Government to expedite its decision regarding rehabilitatioh or otherwise of the NTC units;

(b) if so, the total allocations made by Government for the revival of NTC units in the country;

(c) the details of surplus land and machinery etc. disposed off by the NTC during the past three years and revenue earned therefrom; and

(d) the action plan formulated to revive the NTC units and to make them viable?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the funds for revival of NTC mills were to be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC, no allocation has been made by Government of India.

(c) The NTC has not disposed of any of its surplus lands and machinery during the past three years.

(d) Government, on the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Handlowv and Powerloom Weavers

3967. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of handloom and powerloom weavers in the country;

(b) the state-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have introduced any social security scheme for those weavers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) As per the Census of Handlooms in 1987-88, there were 43.75 lakhs handloom weavers in the country. Statewise details are given in Statement-I. *{See* below)

A Joint Census of Handlooms and Powerlooms has been conducted through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi. The data is under process.

(c) Government of India is implementing 3 Social Security scheme *viz.* Thrift Fund Scheme, Group Insurance Scheme and New Insurance Scheme for the handloom weavers. The Government has also introdi ed Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom weavers in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(d) Details of the Social Security Schemes being implemented by Government for handloom and powerloom weavers are given in Statement-II.

Statement—I

SI. No.	States/UTs	No. of Handloom Household Members Engaged in Weaving Activity (Full Time and Part Time)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	252157
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45204
3.	Assam	1716440
4.	Bihar	103629
5.	Gujarat	28560
6.	Haryana	18365
7.	Himachal Pradesh	40999
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	32428
9.	Karnataka	90999
10.	Kerala	47155
11.	Madhya Pradesh	37009
12.	Maharashtra	67127
13.	Manipur	284205
14.	Meghalaya	9321
15.	Mizoram	99828
16.	Nagaland	102022
17.	Orissa	116834
18.	Punjab	11697
19.	Rajasthan	38199
20.	Tamil Nadu	421040
21.	Tripura	115236